



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**AUSTIN MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 17 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR POSSESSING AND DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Steven Keith Hawkins was sentenced this morning in Austin to 210 months in federal prison on child pornography charges. On September 16, 2005, Hawkins pled guilty to two counts of distributing child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography.

“Men who desire sex with children are the lowest of the low. Mr. Hawkins' conduct in this case can only be described as pure evil. Today, he received exactly what he deserved, a long sentence in the federal penitentiary,” stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Hawkins admitted that on two occasions, in May 2004 and February 2005, he distributed numerous images of child pornography over the Internet to another user in the State of California, both by directly transmitting computer files of child pornography images to that person and by forwarding links to websites he knew contained child pornography. On June 14, 2005, a federal search warrant was executed at Hawkins' residence in Austin, which revealed that Hawkins knowingly possessed numerous graphic digital videos and still images of child pornography on his personal computer, mostly depicting the sexual abuse of prepubescent children.

Hawkins also admitted that he had viewed at least one actual molestation of a child by an adult male via Internet web-camera, and had communicated with others over the Internet about viewing and engaging in sexual relations with children. Hawkins acknowledged he tried to arrange for a child under the age of 3 to be brought to Texas so that he and another adult male could have sexual relations with the toddler.

In addition to his prison term, United States District Judge Sam Sparks also ordered that Hawkins be placed under supervised release for a period of seven years after completing his prison term.

This case was investigated by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigation, and the Sacramento Valley Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Devlin prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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